

THE LACLEDE BLADE

A. J. OAYWOOD, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at the Laclede postoffice for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1909.

FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL

Our Special Correspondent Writes Entertainingly of Things at Washington

President Taft stands squarely behind the tax on the net earnings of corporations and he advocates it not merely as an expedient with which to sidetrack the income tax. He believes it to be a highly desirable form of taxation because it is the first step in a carefully devised system of federal control of corporations, and the next step, federal supervision of all issues of stocks and bonds, he will recommend to congress in his first annual message. The president will not assent to any substitution in conference of the inheritance tax for this tax on corporations, nor does he believe that any such substitution is contemplated, though many rumors to this effect have been flying about the country recently. The republican members of the finance committee declare that they have no intention of any such substitution and the house leaders, including the speaker, predict with confidence that the corporation tax will be enacted as a part of the tariff bill. These facts, together with much other interesting information, were brought out at the White House this week, where President Taft talked freely with several friends.

The president made clear his views, also, regarding the various forms of special taxation which have been suggested in connection with the current deficiency of the federal revenues. Above all other forms of special taxation Mr. Taft prefers a graduated income tax, which he believes it would be improper to enact under the circumstances until its constitutionality is placed beyond question. He is of the opinion that every man should contribute through a direct tax a fair proportion of his income to the maintenance of the government, not only for the sake of the revenue such a tax would yield, but because such contribution would bring home to every man a realization of his responsibility to and for the government of his country. He does not believe, however, that an income tax determined by an arithmetical ratio would be a fair tax. He is convinced that if the man who has an income of \$1,200 a year contributes one per cent. of that amount to the support of the government, the man with an income of \$5,000 a year should contribute a higher percentage, say two per cent., and the man whose income reaches into the tens of thousands should contribute possibly five per cent. or more, and so on. Mr. Taft regards a stamp tax as a proper revenue measure for an emergency, but as lacking in considerable degree that tendency to correct evils of distribution which would be accomplished by either a graduated income tax or a graduated inheritance tax. And last, the corporation tax, which President Taft regards as highly desirable from every point of view; primarily because it will insure a degree of federal inspection and public knowledge of the transactions of all corporations, thus fitting in with his general economic plans insofar as they relate to corporations, and, secondarily, because it will yield ample revenue to obviate any deficiency.

The president takes emphatic issue with the allegations that the corporation tax is unjust, that it

will not reach the wealth of the country. He firmly believes that it will reach men of wealth; and he further believes that in the majority of cases bond-holders are also stock-holders, that they are compelled to hold stock in order to protect their bonded interests. In short, Mr. Taft regards the corporation tax as a tax on wealth and, as such, as wholly just and proper.

Senator Root's address to the senate this week in support of the Taft plan for the taxation of the net earnings of corporations is regarded by many senators as the most notable contribution to the tariff debates of this congress. One of the interesting features of Mr. Root's address was his statement that he expected the required three-fourths of the states to ratify the proposed amendment to the constitution authorizing congress to levy an income tax. "I think the United States ought to have the power to levy an income tax," he said. "I do not want it used to drive out of existence the protective tariff. . . . But I do want my country to have the power which is possessed by other countries to summon to its assistance in time of great need all the wealth of the nation. I shall vote for and advocate the amendment in my own state, and I hope it will be adopted." In speaking of the corporation tax Mr. Root said he supported it because he thought it better policy, better patriotism and higher wisdom than a general income tax.

There is a large number of naval officers in Washington just now who are living in mortal terror of what is known as the "plucking board." This is the special board which under the naval personnel law must choose a certain number of officers for retirement each year unless enough vacancies are created through natural causes.

Progress In Cuba

With the beginning of the present fiscal year the Republic of Cuba established a bureau of information, President Gomez appointing Leon J. Canova, an American newspaper man, who has resided in Cuba eleven years and has a wide acquaintance with the island, as its director.

Parties wishing information of any nature concerning Cuba can obtain same, free of charge, by writing to Leon S. Canova, U. and I. Bureau, (Utility and Information Bureau,) Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, Havana, Cuba.

Post Cards Kept Out of the Mail

Failure to enclose tinselled or frosted post cards in tightly sealed envelopes to prevent the escape of particles of tinsel, mica and the like, as required by the postal regulations, is causing from 15,000 to 20,000 of such cards to be withdrawn from the mails and sent to the dead letter office at the postoffice department every day.

Following the issuance of an order by the department declaring of such character to be unmailable unless enclosed in envelopes so treated as to prevent injuries to employees, post card dealers began supplying their customers with flimsy transparent envelopes for enclosing the cards, which has resulted in much difficulty to the department.

The postage stamp is frequently placed on the card inside the envelope, thereby preventing its cancellation, and the envelopes fail to prevent the escape of particles, which fill the air in postal cars, thereby causing inflammation of the eyes of railway mail clerks.

Alfaretta Mingo is very melancholy. She was engaged to a young man and made a delicious cherry pie for him. He bit on a cherry stone unexpectedly.

TRYING TO MAKE UP THE DEFICIT

Governor Hadley Has Invoked a Long-Neglected Law to Raise Saloon Tax

Governor Hadley urged the legislature to increase the minimum state tax on dramshop licenses from \$200 a year to \$300. The republican house enacted such a bill, but the senate passed it up. When the legislature had adjourned the governor felt that the county courts, in counties which license dramshops, should levy a higher tax than the minimum, which is \$200 a year. The maximum tax is \$400 a year. Any county court has the right to levy that amount on every license granted. Very few county courts—not more than six—have ever levied more than the minimum state tax on dramshop licenses.

In Kansas City the tax is determined by the Jackson county court which has increased the state tax to \$300 a year. In Buchanan county the court has made the same increase, and in St. Louis, which is not under the jurisdiction of a county court, the excise commissioner has made the same increase.

In St. Louis and in Jackson and Buchanan counties more than three-fourths of the 4,000 saloons of the state are located. Outside of St. Louis and the counties named there are only about 900 saloons. Other counties have complied with the governor's suggestion, about 3,300 of the 4,000 saloons will pay \$300 a year each to the state, an increase of \$100 over the rate heretofore charged. This increase will result in an addition to the general revenue fund of \$330,000 a year, which will go to reduce the extra charge on that fund for 1909 and 1910 on account of the deficiency saddled on the new administration by the last democratic administration. Thus the deficit created by past democratic extravagance and by present democratic incapacity in the legislature has been satisfactorily taken care of.

The claim that Governor Hadley and the republican party leaders had an alliance with the breweries and saloons has been thoroughly refuted by this and other policies adopted by the governor. Instead of talking against the breweries and saloons and acting in their favor the governor has put in operation a law never invoked by his democratic predecessors and thereby compelled the saloons to make up a deficit caused by democratic financiering; and he is enforcing the laws regulating saloons in accordance with the promises of the republican state platform.

Waterways Commission

W. K. Kavanaugh and Hon. C. P. Walbridge of St. Louis, Walter S. Dickey and Lawrence M. Jones of Kansas City and former Governor A. M. Dockery of Gallatin have been appointed by Governor Hadley as members of the waterways commission provided for by an act of the legislature. This commission will study the problems connected with improvement of the waterways of the state and development of water power, and report to the legislature. The governor could not have selected five better citizens for this important work.

It is the policy of the republicans of Missouri to foster the improvement of waterways and the material development of the state. This policy is heartily approved by the leading citizens of both political parties. The day of material development in Missouri came with the day of deliverance for the state from the long continued domination of the democratic party, the leaders of which have not seemed interested in any proposition to develop the resources of our wonderfully rich commonwealth.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Annual Settlement of the Township Trustee With the Various School District for the Fiscal Year Ending July 1, 1909. A Condensed Statement.

The township board met last Monday and among the business transacted was the annual settlement of George W. Anderson, trustee, with the various school districts for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1909. Following is a condensed statement of the financial condition of each district:

District No. 1-57-20 (Locust Creek).
To balance on hand July 1, 1908\$ 202.04
To receipts for the year 432.41
\$ 634.45
By paid incidental warrants\$ 62.12
By paid teachers' warrants 303.90
By balance on hand July 1, 1909 268.43
\$ 634.45

District No. 2-57-20 (Oak Arbor).
To balance on hand July 1, 1908\$ 124.20
To receipts for the year 564.48
\$ 688.68
By paid incidental warrants\$ 112.81
By paid teachers' warrants 360.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 215.87
\$ 688.68

District No. 5-57-20 (Forker).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 92.38
To receipts for the year 461.26
\$ 553.64
By paid incidental warrants\$ 69.81
By paid teachers' warrants 351.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 133.13
\$ 553.64

District No. 8-57-20 (Barton).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 118.87
To receipts for the year 304.14
\$ 423.01
By paid incidental warrants\$ 52.10
By paid teachers' warrants 265.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 105.91
\$ 423.01

District No. 2-58-20 (Sunny Point).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 44.06
To receipts for the year 461.07
\$ 505.13
By paid incidental warrants\$ 53.50
By paid teachers' warrants 315.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 136.63
\$ 505.13

District No. 4-58-20 (Bruner).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 140.93
To receipts for the year 506.29
\$ 647.22
By paid incidental warrants\$ 61.30
By paid teachers' warrants 270.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 315.92
\$ 647.22

District No. 4-58-21 (Plum Grove).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 438.31
To receipts for the year 756.04
\$1,194.35
By paid incidental warrants\$ 43.75
By paid teachers' warrants 312.50
By paid bonds and interest 689.86
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 148.24
\$1,194.35

District No. 5-57-21 (Frakes).
To balance in treasury July 1, 1908\$ 92.31
To receipts for the year 384.62
\$ 476.93
By paid incidental warrants\$ 71.80
By paid teachers' warrants 360.00
By balance in treasury July 1, 1909 45.13
\$ 476.93

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SEASON TICKETS NOW ON SALE

If purchased in June\$1.50
" " " July 1.75
" " " August 2.00

CHILDREN'S TICKETS

If purchased in June\$.50
" " " July60
" " " August75

GENERAL ADMISSION

Adults\$.25
Children 8 to 12 years of age10

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